

Frequently Asked Questions

*What **performance measures** must all North Dakota State Formula AmeriCorps program applicants address?*

All North Dakota State Formula AmeriCorps program applicants must address the following three performance measures in the narrative section of their application in egrants and in the performance measures section in egrants:

- One aligned performance measure that captures the results of your program's primary activity addressing a **primary problem**. (You may present secondary problems—see note below)
- Volunteer recruitment performance measure (Capacity building)
- Member development performance measure. (Capacity building)

Performance measures are indicators of performance that include an output and outcome. The term **output** refers to the quantity of community beneficiaries (people) who will be served, or units of service completed by AmeriCorps members. The term **outcome** refers to the degree of change in communities or lives of community beneficiaries as a result of an intervention(s).

Note: each problem level and any additional performance measures that you present must have separate output and outcome performance measures.

The following two paragraphs provide an example of the appropriate structure when completing the **volunteer recruitment and member development performance measures** (note: some text windows in the Performance Measure tab have a limit on characters).

The **volunteer recruitment measure** will be as follows (replace the "X" with actual numbers):

Output: a minimum of "X" number of volunteers will be recruited by the AmeriCorps members.

Outcome: X% of volunteers recruited will report that they had a meaningful experience and will volunteer again in the future.

The **member development measure** will be as follows: (replace the "X" with actual numbers)

Output: X number of enrolled AmeriCorps members who complete their term of service will have received training and practical experience in (your narrative should include a list of the training and practical experience that will be acquired through your project).

Outcome: X% of AmeriCorps members who complete their term of service will be able to demonstrate an improved level of knowledge and volunteerism (your narrative should explain who will rate the members and the measurement tool that will verify the overall change from pre-AmeriCorps involvement to the completion of a service contract).

*What **focus areas, objectives and interventions** must be selected in egrants when entering the **volunteer recruitment performance measure and the member development measure**?*

Applicants must select Capacity Building as the focus area, and then Capacity Building & Leverage as the sub-category, and then the interventions that your program plans to conduct. Typically, Volunteer Recruitment would include interventions such as recruitment, management, training and other. Typically, Member Development would include interventions such as capacity building activities, training and other.

*How much money is available for AmeriCorps*State projects in North Dakota?*

The state receives \$600,000 in formula funds each year.

Who decides which projects will be funded?

The North Dakota State Commission on National and Community Service, a 17 member board appointed by the Governor, based on an application scoring chart and a pre-award risk assessment of applicant agencies conducted by State Commission staff.

What is a living allowance and how does a project disburse the living allowance?

The living allowance is disbursed to member's to meet the necessary and reasonable costs of living incurred by a member who is serving in an AmeriCorps project.

The living allowance is disbursed to a member on equal installments over the life of the AmeriCorps project. An organization applying for AmeriCorps funding must indicate in their application the time span their project will cover. It is not disbursed based on an hourly basis nor the hours served in any particular month.

For example: in the application it is indicated that the AmeriCorps project will cover a time period from October 1, 201x to September 30, 201y. The project indicates that they plan to disburse a \$4,800 living allowance to their part-time members. The project indicates they will disburse this allowance once a month. Based on these facts, all part-time members will receive \$400 a month. If the member starts on November 1, 201x they will receive \$400 per month, receiving a total of \$4,400 (11 months times \$400) in living allowance if they serve from November 1, 201x to September 30, 201y.

Note: if the member should complete their service early they will not be eligible for the living allowance for the months they are not serving.

Can a project submit an application for AmeriCorps funding that has different segments that span different time periods?

Yes. The application must clearly state the facts that would indicate the project has separate segments that have different time spans.

For example: the project proposes providing tutoring and structured after-school activities. In the application it is indicated that the tutoring will be performed from November 1, 201x and will end May 31, 201y while the after-school structured activities will be offered starting October 1, 201x and will end July 31, 201y. The living allowance for the members who serve as tutors will be disbursed over 6 months (November 1 to May 31) while the members who serve as after-school member's will be disbursed the allowance over 10 months.